



*Peas Hill*

by

*William  
Matthison*

Cambridge ARTISTS Chronicle

c.64 : artists

Notes on some of the people who have depicted Cambridge

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1901 08 24

Any attempt to portray life and characters at the 'Varsity, especially Cambridge, without mentioning that wonderful, but indispensable, personage technically known as the Bedmaker, would be the basest ingratitude on the part of the portrayer, says Mr Frank Rutter in his article on "University Types". What if she does clean your teapot with paraffin, or entertain her friends to breakfast in your room? Such little perquisites are well-earned by the "Bedder" who at her best is a motherly creature and known to stick staunchly to her "young gentlemen" in the hour of need. CDN 1901 08 24

1903 08 11

Sir – I believe a great number of antiquarians in Cambridge will learn with regret that the Falcon Inn Yard in Petty Cury has been removed to make way for modern improvements. So quietly has the old Falcon taken flight that I fear our local photographers have not secured pictures of the old buildings and its destruction has escaped even the lynx-eyed representatives of the Press. I am consoled that I have retained my water-colour drawing of this famous inn, which I made 25 years ago for 'Old Cambridge' – W.B. Redfern 03 08 11

1903 08 12

Sir – the alarm about the old Falcon Inn, Petty Cury, being demolished unrecorded seems to me unnecessary. Certainly within the last 40 years I have sent out almost as many drawings of it, to say nothing of the etchings. It, with the old Wrestlers Inn, has been a small gold mine to me. One noticeable thing I might mention: it was the last inn to hang out a flag as a sign that the recruiting sergeant was at home – Robert Farren 03 08 12

1903 10 09

Herbert Railton has contributed fifty drawings to the book 'Cambridge and its Story' in the reproduction of which a new method of lithography has been employed for the first time. The resulting prints have all the delicacy of pencil drawings and the effect is much enhanced by a slight wash of colour added by his wife. No such beautiful architectural drawings have been produced since the days of Samuel Prout. A large-paper edition, of which 100 copies will be issued, will include an original pencil sketch by Mr Railton with each copy 03 10 09

1907 03 06

A house amid a clump of trees near Fulbourn station has been the residence for 50 years of the celebrated animal painter, J.F. Herring who has just died. He was the elder son of an earlier J.F. Herring, the leading painter of racehorses and coaching scenes, while a second son, Charles, became famous as a painter of Landeer subjects. He had just one pupil, Mr W.B. Redfern who visited his old master only yesterday. The funeral will take place at Great Wilbraham where there is a family vault. 07 03 06

1907 05 09

The original water-colour paintings of Mr W. Matthison commissioned to illustrate the new book on Cambridge by Mildred Tucker include subjects seldom depicted by artists. He has selected the daintiest spots: King's College gateway in twilight is a clever study while his view of the Bridge of Sighs was sold before the exhibition was opened. 07 05 09

1907 10 31

Mr Payne Garnett, the art master of the Leys School, is a versatile artist who has discovered many beauty spots in Swaffham. He shows the neighbourhood of Reach and the fens during the four seasons. There is a night scene, the moonlight gently illuminating a typical piece of Fen scenery and another of a deserted village road covered with hardened snow, so full of atmosphere that you need an overcoat. 07 10 31a

1909 03 19

Mr W.B. Redfern's unique collection of watercolour drawings of old Cambridge excited great interest. In 1875 he started to record places of bygone and antiquarian interest which but for his timely intervention would have been lost for ever. A good many had now entirely disappeared including two houses in Shelley Row which were the residence of Oliver Cromwell during the Civil War. They were panelled with two handsome fireplaces which he had moved to his own house. Old houses in Petty Cury were the most striking and perfect places which should never have been pulled down while parts of the Falcon Yard had remained until the last few years 09 03 19

## **1910**

1912 03 15

A School of Weaving has been established by one of the best-known of Cambridge artists, Miss Mary Greene at the Sign of the Pelican and Lilies in Botolph Lane. It is a most delightful little medieval house hung with beautiful works of art. The instructress is Miss Forsell, a Swedish lady, who has already started two schools of weaving. The chief object will be to execute customers' orders on the premises to their own designs. When the pupils have become accomplished spinners and weavers they will be anxious to possess looms themselves and in many houses the loom will be regarded as essential as a piano. 12 03 15d

1912 12 27

Robert Farren, the well-known Cambridge artist lived in Cambridge all his life with the exception of a few years' residence at Scarborough. In August he went to live in Highgate where he has died. He was a very clever water colour artist but best known for his work in oils and his etchings. His fen pictures were well-known and his series of etchings of cathedral cities amongst his most famous

work. He also produced fine etchings of the Cambridge Greek plays. His 'Degree Day' was published as a photo by Wm Farren when he lived in Rose Crescent. Farren loved to paint Cambridge & Cambridgeshire scenery and there is scarcely a picturesque 'bit' in the town or county that has not been reproduced by him. At one time he had his studios at the top of which are now the University offices but were formerly a Liberal Club. A good many years ago he resided at Mayfield, Hills Road but during the last three years lived at no.1 Station Road. In his younger days he was a very handsome figure, tall and well-built. He was a skilful fencer and attained some note as a geologist. He married Miss Mason, a Cambridge lady and had a family of 14 children, none of whom are now living in Cambridge, his only relatives being his nephew William Farren, the naturalist, of Regent Street and his brother. Two of his daughters have inherited their father's artistic skill in no small degree. The funeral will take place at Old Chesterton churchyard where his wife is buried. – 12 12 20bb Funeral at Old Chesterton. Three children of his eldest son, the late Ernest Farren live with their mother in Herbert Street 12 12 27b

1913 12 19

I.J. Aronowitz of Lyndewode Road has been granted a patent for a process in which printed pictures are treated to resemble oil paintings by mounting them on canvas and embossing them with a die prepared so as to produce marks on the picture in imitation both of the canvas and of the brush and other marks of an original painting. The effects are produced by applying a liquid which solidifies quickly and from which a second electrotpe die is produced which bears in reverse the required markings. 13 12 19 p2 CIP

1914 07 31

Death of Mr. J. A. P. Titterton. We regret to record the death, which occurred after a long illness, of Mr. John Titterton, one of Ely's oldest and respected citizens. The deceased gentleman, who was 84 years of age, was the only son of the late Mr. John Titterton who was Governor of Peterborough Gaol and previously Chief Constable and Superintendent of the Rural Police at Cambridge, of which he was the organiser. An artist, sportsman, photographer, antiquarian and astronomer, the deceased went to Ely as a young man, residing there for nearly 60 years. He was assisted in scientific matters by Professor Selwyn. He became fascinated by astronomy and did good work under the Royal Astronomical Society in completing an entire series of photographs of the solar system. Mr. Titterton had also the reputation of being a clever artist, his oil and water colour paintings being much admired by all who viewed them. A well-known, and even famous picture, "The building of Ely Minster", was from his brush, and he also possessed several others of an historical character. 14 07 31

1915 04 23

Edward Wilson, scientific illustrator; manager new department at Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company then scientific artist and illustrator in Post Office Terrace 15 04 23 p5

## **1920**

1922 06 15

Messrs W. Heffer and Sons have become well known for the excellence of anything exhibited at their Sidney- street galleries. Well above the standard of the rest of their exhibits is some of the truly wonderful work of a Scottish artist, Mr William Watt Milne, who has a studio in St Ives. The six pictures which are exhibited have been painted in the neighbourhood of Houghton. "Flood at Houghton" is the title of a pretty little piece of work depicting the picturesque village street on a grey day with the threatening sky reflected in a pool of water in the foreground. One of the best pictures is that called "The Old Inn at Houghton", a superb piece of work 22 06 15

1925 02 28

We regret to announce the death of Mr Cyrus Johnson, the well-known portrait painter. He was the youngest son of the late Mr Elijah Johnson who founded the Cambridge bookselling firm in Trinity Street. Born at Cambridge he was educated at the Perse school and afterwards studied in Paris. He

exhibited at the Royal Academy as a portrait painter in 1877 in which branch of art he achieved much distinction. He resided in Cambridge from 1916 until last year 25 02 28

1925 05 09

The funeral took place of Mr William West of the Art Department of the University Press. He was a versatile artist of considerable ability. His sketches of old Cambridge are numerous and beautiful & some may be seen in the book entitled "Cambridge re-visited" by Mr Arthur Gray, while many others have never been published. During the war he was much in request at the First Eastern General Hospital where he made valuable records of unusual aspects of certain diseases 25 05 09

**1930**

1935 05 18

Cambridge Drawing Society exhibition includes many local views including 'Peas Hill' by Dorothy E. Bradford, 'Pembroke College' by Joyce Shillington Scales and Fenners by Mary Fyson. Fulbourn Mill has provided R.C. Lambeth with a subject. His detailed painting of the interior of the mill and its machinery will interest all with a mechanical turn of mind. Madame Raverat has some beautiful woodcuts including an unusually large cut of St John's Old Bridge printed from three wood blocks. 35 05 18

1935 07 27

Sid Moon, the CDN cartoonist for six years, is leaving to take up a similar appointment on the 'Sunday Despatch'. Speaking in a dual capacity as editor and as 'Uncle Robin' (of the Robin Fellowship), Mr Morley Stuart said Mr Moon had produced cartoons which were full of clever ideas but never objectionable and expressed regret that the special Robin Goodfellow cartoon characters he had created had no 'gone back into the inkwell' 35 07 27

1936

The Gordon Fraser Gallery owes its international fame to very humble beginnings at a tiny shop in Portugal Street. There was little passing trade at the newly modernised bookshop-cum-art gallery opened by Gordon Fraser in 1936. But amongst the merchandise on sale were original Picasso etchings and drawings by Matisse and James Thurber. The breakthrough came during the war when he commissioned local artists to produce cards which were printed in Bedford. It was there that the Gallery grew into a major force on the greetings card scene. 86 01 31a

1936 03 24

Herbert Ernest Fenn – a clever artist and cartoonist – 36 03 24a

1938 03 01

Charles Edmund Brock, the artist, died at his residence in Grange Road. He was chiefly known as a water colour artist and book illustrator, including novels by Charles Dickens and Jane Austen and did a fair amount of work for 'Punch'. He painted portraits of University worthies, several being exhibited at the Royal Academy, and two portraits of former Mayors, Ald Spalding and Ald Sinker, hung in the Guildhall before the rebuilding. His brother H.M. Brock, another artist, lives nearby. 38 03 01

1938 12 13

Cambridgeshire Photographic Record exhibition – includes watercolours of areas impossible to photograph including view of Fitzroy Street and Burleigh Street corner from roof of Laurie & McConnals painted by Beryl Pickering; other sketches include the Saxon Cement Works, Eagle Hotel yard, Hobson Street from King Street end, Miss M.C. Greene paintings of yards – Ninepin, True Blue, Ram Yard, Falcon Yard. Last thatched roof in Blackamoor Head Yard - 38 12 13a

1939 02 13

Mary Green exhibition of water colours at Cambridge library, recently donated – 39 02 13a

1939 07 29

Ronald Searle cartoon saying au revoir to Cambridge – 39 07 29

## **1940**

1945 11 30

Ronald Searle exhibition drawings from Japanese prison camp – CDN 1945 11 30b, CDN 1945 12 01.  
CDN 1945 12 04

## **1950**

1951 12 21

Miss Mary Charlotte Green of Harston House has died. Aunt to the distinguished author, Graham Greene, she was well-known for her deep interest in village activities. Her main occupation was painting which she continued right up to recent weeks, the paint on some of her works being still wet. She could often be seen painting on Coe Fen, even when there was frost on the ground. She exhibited at the Royal Academy and was President of the Cambridge Drawing Society. She also published a number of poems, reminiscences and one-act plays and was a keen horticulturist 51 12 21

1953 10 23

A portrait salvaged from a workmen's rubbish dump at Corpus Christi College, said to be of Christopher Marlowe, bears a resemblance to an engraving of Shakespeare which appeared in the First Folio of the plays in 1621. No other portrait of Marlowe, who was at the college from 1581 to 1587, exists. American experts have little doubt that it is of Shakespeare which could mean that the descriptions of the countryside described in his plays are really based on Cambridgeshire scenes and not around Stratford. The portrait, on a wooden panel & split almost in three, is now being restored.

1954 03 10

Matthieson artist death – 54 03 10

1954 08 17

'Cambridge byways', no.1 by Lewis Todd – Lt St Mary's Lane

1956 02 18

Roy Meldrum exhibition, artist - 56 02 18c

1957 02 13

A remarkable and widely admired artist, Mrs Gwendolen Raverat, of The Old Granary, Silver Street, has died aged 71. As a wood engraver her work was both decorative and illustrative; technically she was an excellent craftswoman and she chose to engrave without the aid of fancy. She was one of the earliest members of the Society of Wood Engravers founded in 1920. 57 02 13

1957 04 30

Mrs Gwendolen Mary Raverat of The Old Granary, Silver Street, engraver, artist and granddaughter of Charles Darwin died in February, leaving £1,000 to her housekeeper, Florence McMonagle, with another £1,000 to her indoor and outdoor servants. But Cottenham WI feel that such wills should not be published in newspapers without the executor's consent. To the strain of bereavement is added the embarrassment that your private business is an item of news and probably gossip. 57 04 30a

1957 07 19

Lloyd Gibson, aged 12, has won 102 painting competitions in four years. In his house in Isaac Walton Way are a television set, a portable wireless, three bicycles and a camera together with a pair of roller skaters and a set of hair brushes which he has won by his entries in boy's magazines. His pictures depict Red Indians, knights in armour and Spanish buccaneers but he would like to be a commercial artist when he grows up. 57 07 19a

1958 01 03

Cambridge artist Mrs Pamela Townshend had been commissioned to paint a portrait of Princess Margaret to commemorate her visit to open Langdon House. This young and vivacious woman has quickly become established as an artist and the Queen has bought one of her views of a French street scene. 58 01 03

1958 11 29

Ernest Hilton art gallery, King Street – 58 11 29

1959 01 14

Lichfield Galleries opened, All Saints Passage – 59 01 14

1959 11 06

Kate Primmer, artist – profile – 59 11 06 & a & b

1959 12 30

Cambridge rich in artists – Irene Broe – 59 12 30

***1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has detailed newspaper cuttings files from this date***

1960 01 08

Angela Garnett, Hilton painter – feature – 60 01 08

1960 03 02

Sometimes talented people are intensely modest about their work and dislike publicity. Such is the case with Miss Isabella Mackay who is a partner of a local engineering firm and a remarkably fine artist. She was taught enamelling by the celebrated Louis Joseph of Geneva, attended two schools of art, jewellery and engraving in Birmingham and taught occupational therapy – including basket work – at Papworth in the early days of the Settlement. She has produced some original engravings of the colleges and has exhibited in this country and on the continent. 60 03 02

1961 08 16

Artist Jeanette Jackson and her husband are converting the old windmill at Hemingford Grey into a house and studio. It is this mill which has inspired her 15 paintings now on exhibition in London. The miller's horse and cart stables have been converted into living quarters and the loose box into a bedroom. The corn store is now a modern kitchen and the whole stable block joined by a glass veranda. The millstones will form the entrance steps and the huge wooden finial which once topped the windmill is to have place of honour on the ground floor. The hardest job was the cutting of the 140-year-old cast iron shaft which carried the sails. 61 08 16

1962 02 23

Sir – I admire the paintings of Edward Vulliamy and hope there may be an exhibition of his work. I have two examples of his genius. One, dated 1929-31, is a superb watercolour of a drainage windmill that stood near Wicken Fen, the other is a pencil sketch of the windmill on Madingley Hill. They hang alongside other fenland etchings – R.W. Macbeth's 'Fen Flood', 'Potato Harvest in the Fens' and Robert Farren's 'Holywell' and 'Sunrise on Wicken Lode'. I hope I shall find somewhere that Cambridge people may enjoy them as I have done – William Farren, Milton Road, Cambridge. 62 02 23f & 24

1962 04 19

Francis Leach, stained glass artist and sculptor – obituary – 62 04 19

1962 05 18

Betty Rea, the sculptor, was taught by Henry Moore at the Royal College of Art – profile – 62 05 18a

1962 09 18

Edward Vulliamy exhibition staged – 62 09 18

1964 12 02

L. Campbell Taylor, Royal Academician and one of Cambridge's best-known painters – profile 64 12 02c

## **1970**

1971 03 13

E.S. Summers, commercial and heraldic artist for 40 years to retire when Lion Yard redevelopment sweeps away premises at 13 Alexandra Street – 71 03 13

## **1980**

1981 04 21

Three valuable painting of Henry VI, Henry VII and Henry VIII have been stolen from King's College, Cambridge. All are contemporary works in oil on wood or panel. They were taken along with their frame from the college's main hall and people thought they had been removed for cleaning. 81 04 21a

1981 05 01

It took £10,000, two 20-ton cranes and a good deal of ingenuity for Cambridge artist, Philip Martin, to realise a lifetime's ambitions. He has taken delivery of a 70-foot barge. The 15-ton monster had to be winched off its transporter and lowered into the Cam at Riverside before being pulled by hand a mile up river to its permanent base opposite Alpha Road. It will take some time to convert it into one of the few floating art galleries in the country 81 05 01

1985 06 28

Harry Moden cartoonist, family fills gaps – 85 06 28b

1985 07 24

Lewis Todd was resident cartoonist of the CDN 30 years ago, following in the footsteps of Ronald Searle and Sid Moon who went on to Fleet Street. He is best-remembered for his composite drawings of cricket and football teams. He enjoyed a long career as an artist with the Ministry of Agriculture but now has an exhibition of his oil paintings of Cambridge scenes including a view of the Roman Catholic Church which makes it look like a Van Gogh structure. 85 07 24a

1986 02 13

Mary Greene artist – article 86 02 13a

1986 05 16

John Bendall, cartoonist – profile – 86 05 16c

1986 06 09

Gerald Coulson, Thriplow artist has first solo exhibition 86 06 09a & b

1990 01 04

Gwen Raverat – feature – 90 01 04a